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LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA, FRANCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to enclose the text of the statement issued following the meeting which you held on 30 September 1993 with our Ministers of Foreign Affairs. We should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Zhaoxing
Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the
United Nations

Annex

Statement issued on 30 September 1993 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council following a meeting with the Secretary-General

On 30 September 1993, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the five permanent members of the Security Council met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Taking part were the Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, H.E. Mr. Alain Juppe; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Andrey Kozyrev; the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, H.E. Mr. Douglas Hurd; and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. Warren Christopher.

The Ministers congratulated the Secretary-General on his continued outstanding service to the United Nations and to the principles embodied in its Charter. They pledged strong support for efforts to improve the efficiency of the United Nations and to revitalize the Organization's peace-keeping capabilities.

The Ministers noted the fivefold increase in United Nations peace operations over the past five years: the numerous requests for additional missions due to the proliferation of local conflicts; the heightening in the level of danger and complexity of such missions; the efforts under way to improve the Organization's peace-keeping capabilities; the need for the United Nations to cooperate closely with regional organizations; and the value of preventive diplomacy within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

Bearing these concerns in mind, the Ministers agreed, in the spirit of the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace", to cooperate in strengthening the capabilities of the United Nations to carry out the full spectrum of peace-keeping operations under the authority of the Security Council. They took note of the work being done on peace-keeping reform and stressed the importance of improving budget procedures; modernizing command, control and communications; professionalizing and institutionalizing planning and civilian training functions and enhancing public affairs capabilities and establishing a high degree of coordination among States willing to contribute troops and other forms of material assistance to United Nations peace operations. In this context, the Ministers welcome the contacts in train between the Secretariat and member States concerning the notification by member States of specific forces or capabilities which with the approval of national authorities they could make available to the United Nations on a case-by-case basis.

Given the gap between current demands on the United Nations and its capabilities pending the reforms mentioned above, the Ministers affirmed that new commitments should be weighed very carefully, and made only after fundamental questions of mandate, objectives, adequacy of force, availability of resources, risk to personnel and length of mandate have been examined and satisfactorily resolved.

The Ministers expressed the belief that experience gained in United Nations peace-keeping operations in recent years, such as in Namibia, El Salvador and Cambodia, provides a basis for confidence that continued efforts to strengthen capabilities will yield good results. They stressed the importance of applying the lessons learned in past and current operations, and observed that in this new era, establishing a durable peace often requires sustained effort both by the international community and by the people of the State or States involved.

The Ministers reviewed with the Secretary-General a number of the peace-keeping missions that are currently proposed or under way.

In that regard, the Ministers paid tribute to the accomplishments of the United Nations in Cambodia and noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia successfully fulfilled its mandate. Cambodia's return to constitutional government is a major achievement for the United Nations and the Cambodian people. The Ministers agreed to consider, on the advice of the Secretary-General and at the request of the Cambodian Government, how a continued United Nations presence, which might include a modest number of military observers, would contribute further to peace and stability after the departure of UNTAC.

The Ministers stressed the importance they attach to the role the United Nations is playing in helping to resolve conflicts in Africa. In this context they noted the progress that has been made in Somalia in ending famine, restoring secure conditions throughout most of the country and establishing a framework for national reconciliation. They agreed on the importance of further steps to enhance security and to achieve a political settlement. They also reviewed the situation in Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda and Liberia and the contributions the United Nations can make to resolve these conflicts.

The Ministers expressed their support for the measures taken by the Secretary-General and the Security Council to assist in bringing to an end the conflicts on the territory of the former USSR, in particular in Abkhazia (Republic of Georgia), in border areas of Tajikistan and in support of the CSCE in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic. They welcomed the peace-keeping efforts of the Russian Federation and other independent States of the former Soviet Union to establish and monitor cease-fires and facilitate negotiated solutions, with the agreement of the countries concerned.

The Ministers discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia. They called upon all parties to reach urgently a negotiated solution to the conflict in Bosnia which will permit the implementation of the peace-keeping operation envisaged in the Stoltenberg-Owen Plan under the aegis of the United Nations. They stated their determination to act under the relevant Security Council resolutions to enable UNPROFOR to carry out its peace-keeping and humanitarian aid mandates successfully, and to implement resolutions 808 and 827 by establishing and supporting an international tribunal to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the gross violations of international humanitarian law that have occurred within former Yugoslavia since 1991.

The Ministers noted that the role of the United Nations continues to grow in importance, creating new opportunities while also placing severe stress on the financial and other resources of the Organization. They stressed the common

stake that all States and peoples have in assisting the United Nations to meet its potential as a forward-looking force for peace, development and the other objectives of the Charter.

The Ministers stressed the need for all Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time. The Ministers expressed the view that global problems cannot be dealt with successfully unless international institutions, including the United Nations, are strengthened, which will not happen in the absence of broad public support. They agreed that the United Nations and its agencies and programmes must be effective, disciplined and accountable. In that regard, they emphasized the importance of strengthened oversight of United Nations operations and welcomed recent steps in that direction.

The Ministers stressed the need for close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance operations. They condemned the obstruction of deliveries of humanitarian assistance and attacks on relief workers that have occurred in some States. They called upon all States and all parties in an armed conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to allow effective and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Ministers viewed with great satisfaction the breakthrough agreement that has been reached between the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. They note that the agreement is consistent with resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council and that it takes into account the right to security for all parties in the region, including Israel, and takes account of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. The Ministers expressed the hope that this first agreement will facilitate additional agreements which, taken together, will constitute a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. The Ministers urged the international community to mobilize resources in order to see that the agreement produces tangible improvements in the security and daily lives of Palestinians and Israelis. They stressed the need to start improving immediately the economic situation in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Ministers discussed developments in Iraq. They welcomed the recent contacts between UNSCOM and Iraq but reaffirmed that Iraq must fully comply with all applicable Security Council resolutions.

The Ministers expressed strong and continued support for the movement towards democracy and an end to all forms of apartheid in South Africa. They welcomed efforts by leaders of all sides to avoid additional violence and discord, while noting with appreciation the constructive role being played in South Africa by United Nations and other international peace observers. They urged all South African parties to redouble their efforts to reach consensus on the transitional arrangements and constitutional issues still outstanding and to proceed to elections in the coming year.

The Ministers thanked the Secretary-General for his invitation to meet, pledged their continued commitment to a stronger and more effective United Nations and agreed to remain in close consultation about issues of widespread international concern.